Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 17 on page 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Therefore, the present invention has been worked out for solving the problem. ~~It is an object~~ An aspect of the present invention is to provide a communication connection merge method and a node to be employed in the same, which can merge parameter of LSP, such as request bandwidth or the like, upon performing merging.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 22 on page 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Another ~~object~~ aspect of the present invention is to provide a communication connection merge method and a node to be employed in the same, which can merge the parameter of the LSP together and can branch the LSP once merged.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 14 on page 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to the third aspect of the present invention, a communication connection merge method performing merge process for consolidating a plurality of communication connection of a connection-oriented network at a node on the way of transfer route into a common communication connection, ~~comprising~~ comprises:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 13 on page 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Namely, in the communication connection merge method according to the present invention, the label switching router upon receipt of the label switched path setup request makes judgment whether or not the newly set label switched path can be merged to the existing label switched path. As a criterion for judgment, in addition to [[have]] having a common route to the egress label switching router, it is checked whether the parameter of the existing label switched path can be modified so that the parameter of the new label switched path having parameter, such as requested bandwidth or the like may be accommodated in the existing label switched path.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 5 on page 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The LSR 102 receiving the LSP setup request 401 checks whether the LSP having has a common route to the egress LSR 103 from the LSR 102 (step S2 of FIG. 2). When such LSP is present, merging is not performed and the process is transit to a procedure for setting the LSP (step S12 of FIG. 2).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 10 on page 15 with the following rewritten paragraph:

When the LSR 102 receives the parameter modification response from the downstream LSR, the parameter modification is fixed to perform merge of the LSP (step

S8 and S10 of FIG. 2). Then, an LSP ~~setting~~ setup response 402 is transmitted to the LSR 104 (step S11 of FIG. 2). As a result, setting of the LSP 302 to be merged to the LSP 301 by the LSR 102 with taking the LSR 104 as merge point, is completed.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 10 on page 19 with the following rewritten paragraph:

At step S47, when modification of parameter is successful, exchange of message relating to modification of parameter is performed in ~~sequentially~~ sequential order of transmitting the parameter modification request 411 from the LSR 107 to the LSR 109, transmitting the parameter modification request 413 from the LSR 109 to the LSR 110, transmitting the parameter modification response 414 from the LSR 110 to the LSR 109, and transmitting the parameter modification response 412 from the LSR 109 to the LSR 107.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 7 on page 21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

As a result of the step S46, if the modification of parameter is not successful, attempt to accommodate the LSP to be newly established in the tunneling LSP 303 and process is transit to the procedure for establishing the LSP (step S52 in FIG. 7). If modification of parameter is successful, the newly established LSP is accommodated in the tunneling LSP 303 to transmit the LSP setup request 415 to the LSR 109 as terminal end of the tunneling LSP 303 (steps S48 and S49 in FIG. 7).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 7 on page 26 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The LSR 102 upon receipt of the parameter modification response 404 fixes the temporarily set parameter and returns LSP setup response (label mapping message) 402 to the LSR 104. In the LSP setup response 402, a label value [[ton]] to be used when the packet of the MPLS flowing on the LSP 302 after setting is transferred from the LSR 104 to the LSR 102. The label value is bound with the transfer label from the LSR 102 to the LSR 103 in the LSP 301.